

PRESIDENT: Sorry, Senator Smith. All right.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. What my amendment would do, would exempt committees that don't receive or expend more than \$2,000 in a calendar year from filing the required accountability reports and my reasoning for that and this, by the way is, you'll find this in Section 3 in the bill and as far as the committee amendments are concerned which change the...which increase from \$1,000 to \$2,000 the exemption for filing in the old bill, that is the reasoning for the \$2,000. But the reason that I am asking for the exemption is that we allow this for those committees that are basically inactive. There is no need, as far as I can see, to burden inactive campaigns with further regulations and requirements on and beyond what we're presently doing and I feel very strongly that because a few committees have had problems in the past in remembering to file reports that are active committees. that those that are inactive that have been meeting the requirements should have to have further requirements. And so for that reason what my amendment would simply do would be to ask to exempt inactive committees, those that don't raise or expend more than \$2,000 in a calendar year.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rupp, did you wish to speak about the Smith amendment? Senator Withem, did you wish to speak about the Smith amendment?

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I would, Mr. President, only to clarify for the body why...what the changes that Senator Smith is attempting to make and why the bill was drafted in a different fashion to begin with and then explain why I'm probably not going to vote for the Smith amendment, but it is probably no big problem if other people do. Senator Smith is objecting to the portion of the bill that requires a committee once it is formed to file annual reports, whether or not they raise the \$2,000. She'd like to return to the situation that only in years when a committee actually meet: the threshold, if this bill passes, \$2,000, will they then have to file the report. It was felt by those who authored the bill that one of the problems a small, relatively inactive, particularly county committees run into is that they don't have to, on an annual basis, file these reports. They don't understand the process and, frankly, they forget to file even in some years when they do raise the money. Two or three years later they will say, oh, my gosh, yeah, we did have that fund raiser, few months, a couple of years ago. We did, in fact, raise \$1,000, we forgot to report that. So the feeling was if it becomes an automatic part of the...an automatic part of